

Portland ^{Me} Dec 7. 1834.

Dear Wife

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It is fifteen minutes to 12 o'clock P. M. I have preached for the colored people twice to day - a small house & easy speaking - & baptised a little colored William Wilberforce. I lectured this evening in the church in Casco street on the subject of Immediate Emancipation, its practicability, safety &c a full hour & a half - don't be alarmed for I am now as bright as a button & presume I shall be so to morrow. The house was literally crammed - every seat, nook & corner being occupied & a great many standing in the aisles - the most perfect order & undivided attention. I never had greater freedom & was thus enabled to make the justice, practicability & safety of Im. Em. stand out in the clear light of day. So said my auditors some of them. But to go back a little - On Monday I went to Saconnet - a village in Westbrook, & lectured there to good audiences in the Congregational House on Monday Evening & in the Methodist on Tuesday. Wednesday, came back to Portland & went to Yarmouth - a strong Colonization town & lectured there to large & attentive audiences on Wednesday & Friday Evenings. Thursday I visited Freeport - the Minister is with us - gave notice of my coming - appointed the meeting to be at Sexton's to light the house - hour came - went to church - found no lights - went back to Mr Kent's, our house & held a sort of family meeting there. There was a violent opposition to the delivering of the address & thence the fact that the house was not lighted. However we had a very pleasant & peaceable interview in Mr K's house, & the opposition will only serve to give notoriety to the matter & make it town talk & the result you know is the making of abolitionists.

I am stopping over Sabbath with the good Unitarian friend I spoke of before - sitting & writing now in my chamber by a nice, hot, coal fire,

Monday Morning - I told you I should feel as bright as a button to day & I do, but then I fear my lecture will get tiring before I get to sleep, for it rains right down. However my health was never better.

Oct. 27. 1834

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By the way I saw Ann - the sister of Elizabeth Harrington at Freeport, at her uncle's, who was in the opposition. She sent her love to you, for you should know that I called the next day at the said Uncle's & took occasion to say that we had a nice, pleasant meeting the evening before in at Mr. Kents. Thus the Lord is truly, I think giving me favor in the eyes of the people. In Portland especially if we can judge from the audiences, it would seem that abolitionism is going ahead, David Crockett like. The minister's here, who set their faces against it, ~~to~~ throw cold water, will find themselves in hot water if they are not careful. Abolition is the cause of eternal truth - the cause of God, & it is destined to sweep every thing before it. I am more & more satisfied of it every day.

But my own affairs - they are bad enough to be sure. Well then I have only to say - good courage - hold up - I presume the money has come to you before this time. If not I wish you to write me on the receipt of this & direct not to Portland but to Kennebunk care of Dr Smart. I wrote to New York in relation to the matter about the same time I wrote you. I suppose of course they would not send it until about the time it was needed.

I go from this to Saco to morrow, thence on Thursday & Friday to Alfred & thence on Saturday to Kennebunk, where I shall hope to hear from you. At any rate direct your next letter thence. It will take your letter ~~two~~ days to get thence. Write so that I will get it on Sunday. The Thursday letter after, which will be the 18th I shall be at Wells. If you shall have heard nothing from N. York when you write me ^{at} Kennebunk, but shall have heard in season to write me at Wells, do so. I shall go thence on Friday or Saturday to Dover, to spend the Sabbath there. Write me also there, how the matter stands. In the mean time, get Uncle Benjamin if he will to get the note renewed, one month, & then if ~~you hear~~ I learn at Dover that you have heard nothing from N. York I shall come directly home & arrange matters in some other way.

O the plague - the plague of being in debt, & yet it is not quite so much
of a plague as a drivers lack &c! However the Lord willing another
year, by hook or by crook, shall see me out of debt. I wish I could
Emancipate all the slaves as soon & as easy. Mr Winslow's
family are getting better. Even old father Hussey was out to
meeting to night; & as I was coming out of meeting, a little lad
by the name of Wyat came along & got his father who was himself
a stranger, to introduce him to me. His father said ^(the lad) he was much
interested in the cause & wanted to come & see me &c. Mrs Porter
also came to me, inquired for you & sent her love. At Saccarappa
I stopped with the Mrs Smith you saw at Brunswick, she also sent
her love. So you see your friends ask after you. At North Yarmouth
also when I came out of meeting, a man by the name of Loring,
who had been formerly a colonizationist came up & was introduced
to me, & as I had been telling them "what to do" - slipped a dollar
into my hands & asked if I would take that in aid of the
cause. Of course I did not refuse you know.

And besides - for I suppose I must fill out my sheet - to night
I took tea at ~~at~~ Mr Ruby's colored man - & there were several
colored persons there, & I did not see but the tea tasted as good,
as if it had been prepared & served by some white lady. Indeed to tell
the truth I love to go among the colored people. I find more real
religious enjoyment in one afternoon's worship in their church
than I should in fifty in the good orthodox churches in this
city. The religion of these churches - (at least if I may judge from
the atmosphere of the sanctuary & the half heartedness of the services
- preaching, praying, singing, all) - is little better than hyper-orthodox
formality & hypocrisy. Very charitable to be sure you say. Nevertheless
I fear it is even so. Remember to F. & all friends - a kiss to my
boy - one to you - a good night rest &c &c. Yours sincerely
A. A. Phelps



Chc

Ld

Mrs Charlotte Phelps

Wrentham

Mass—

Portland Dec 4 1834

Oct 4. 1834

Monday Morning—I told you I should feel as bright as a button to day & I do, but then I fear my lister
will get tampered before I get to sea, for it rains right down. However my health was never better.